

Information Concerning the
Protocol on Procedures Governing Replacement,
Dismantling or Destruction, and Notification Thereof,
for Strategic Offensive Arms

This Protocol provides agreed procedural arrangements for standardized and regulated implementation of the Interim Agreement of May 1972 limiting strategic offensive arms. It provides for implementation of those provisions of the Interim Agreement related to replacement of strategic offensive arms, specifically, Articles III and IV. Article III permits replacement of some ICBM launchers of older types deployed prior to 1964 and launchers on older submarines with submarine launched ballistic-missile launchers on modern nuclear-powered submarines; Article IV permits replacement of strategic offensive ballistic missiles covered by the Interim Agreement.

The Interim Agreement itself specifically required that dismantling or destruction, of Soviet ICBM launchers of older types deployed prior to 1964 and ballistic missile launchers on older submarines which are replaced by new SLBM launchers on modern submarines, will be initiated at the time of the beginning of sea trials of the replacement submarine, and will be completed in the shortest possible agreed period of time. The Procedures govern such details as the scope of dismantling or destruction to be performed in connection with replacement, the length of time allowed for completion of those activities, and the notification required.

The Protocol on Procedures does not alter any limits of the Interim Agreement; it relates solely to the implementation thereof. The document sets forth general guidelines for replacement, dismantling or destruction, and notification thereof, for strategic offensive arms limited by the Interim Agreement. It also contains specific provisions for the dismantling or destruction of land-based ICBM launchers replaced by SLBM launchers; the dismantling or destruction of ballistic-missile submarines and SLEM launchers replaced by new ballistic-missile submarines and SLBM launchers; and the notification to be given in the SCC concerning the status of those activities.

Background Information on Negotiations

Under Article VI of the Interim Agreement, the U.S. and the USSR agreed to establish the Standing Consultative Commission (SCC) for a number of purposes, including "to agree on procedures and dates for destruction or dismantling" in cases provided for by the Interim Agreement. The SCC was established, pursuant to that Article and Article XIII of the ABM Treaty, by Memorandum of Understanding dated December 21, 1972. After negotiation and adoption of its Regulations, the Commission began work on carrying out its mandate to develop the necessary procedures governing replacement, dismantling or destruction, and notification thereof, for strategic offensive arms.

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The negotiations relating to the Protocol on Procedures were conducted concurrently with those relating to the Protocol on Procedures implementing the ABM Treaty. They extended over three SCC sessions over a period of approximately thirteen months. The agreed final texts of both Protocols on Procedures were initialed by SCC Commissioners on June 19, 1974, were signed by Secretary of State Kissinger and Foreign Minister Gromyko in Moscow on July 3, 1974, and entered into force on that date.

Privacy

We have agreed in the SCC not to make public the texts of these procedures. Effective negotiation of viable procedures consistent with the objectives and provisions of the Interim Agreement, and with U.S. national security interests in general, required thorough and frank discussions concerning strategic weapons systems, including the exchange of information related to their characteristics. As in SALT, it was agreed to maintain the privacy of these discussions in the SCC, thus permitting a much freer exchange concerning strategic weapons systems and promoting desirable results. Such privacy of the results as well as of the discussions themselves is consistent with U.S. foreign policy and security interests. It should help to encourage the continued frank exchange of pertinent information in future work of the SCC on overseeing proper implementation

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of current agreements and on its other responsibilities. As in the case of the Protocol on Procedures implementing the ABM Treaty, this Protocol with its attached Procedures was submitted, under injunction of secrecy, to all the appropriate congressional committees, and a complete explanation of its purpose, provisions, and effect was provided.